



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1947.

ORDERS SURVEY OF STORM DAMAGE

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug today instructed the Fish and Wildlife Service to make a prompt survey of the damage sustained by the fishing industry in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast areas due to the recent hurricane.

Secretary Krug also said that the Fish and Wildlife Service had been in consultation with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which by statute is authorized to grant loans, when justified, for the replacement of capital losses in cases of disasters. Applications from the South Atlantic area should be directed to Fred H. Farwell, Manager, RFC Loan Agency, Western Union Building, Jacksonville, Fla. Applications from the Gulf area should be submitted to George Robertson, Area Manager, RFC Loan Agency, 348 Barone Street, New Orleans, La.

The South Atlantic and Gulf Coast area annually produces some 400,000,000 pounds of fish and other seafoods with an ex-vessel value of approximately \$30,000,000. The industry in that area employs nearly 15,000 fishermen and its fleet includes about 1,500 vessels and 12,000 smaller boats. First reports indicate that in some sections nearly one-fourth of the fishing fleet was destroyed or severely damaged. The heaviest damage occurred along the Mississippi and Louisiana coasts, center of the valuable shrimp fishery.

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